

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California



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Herger Urges Fiscal Responsibility During Response to Hurricane Katrina

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger (CA-02) today joined approximately twenty-five members of the House at an event urging the federal government to counterbalance the substantial relief and reconstruction costs of Hurricane Katrina by reducing non-defense federal spending over a number of years. While agreeing that the federal government plays a critical role in helping the affected areas recover, Herger believes that Congress must be fiscally responsible so that future generations are not burdened by further increases in the national debt.

"The heart of every American breaks knowing that hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens have had their lives dramatically changed by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina," Herger said. "The citizens of our compassionate nation have opened their homes and their wallets to help those in need, and Congress has appropriately provided tens of billions of dollars for rescue and recovery efforts. As Congress provides the necessary resources to help Katrina victims rebuild, I strongly believe we must also make sacrifices so that our economy does not suffer from ballooning federal spending. We can and must meet our needs in a fiscally responsible way."

Herger continued, "Since the cost of the reconstruction efforts will be enormous, I commend President Bush for calling for fiscal responsibility in other areas of the federal government. During some of America's darkest hours, our nation has sacrificed to ensure continued fiscal stability, and to make sure that an adequate level of our nation's resources can go to the emergency at hand. I believe it is necessary for Congress and the president to make hard choices by tightening our belts elsewhere. Some have suggested we should raise taxes, but that would severely weakened economic growth and cost jobs. While there are many areas to reduce federal spending, perhaps the best and fairest way to offset Katrina-related costs is an across-the-board reduction in non-defense, non-homeland security spending over the next several years.

"The people of Northern California understand firsthand what it is like to be flooded and know how important it is for the government at all levels to help citizens affected by natural disasters. But we should not simply saddle our children and grandchildren with additional debt and place this great fiscal burden on their shoulders," Herger concluded.

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!

Attached is a copy of a letter Congressman Herger sent to President Bush urging the administration to exercise fiscal restraint to offset the costs of Hurricane Katrina.

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

When Japan initiated World War II by attacking Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt saw how the nation's spending priorities needed to change in light of the emergency situation; so, he cut non-defense spending by over 20% from 1942 to 1944. When the Korean War started in 1950, President Truman faced a similar situation, and he followed Roosevelt's prescription for federal spending priorities and cut nonmilitary spending by 28% in one year.

The average taxpayer wants the federal government to focus its spending on essential services and not on ineffective, duplicative, obsolete programs. Congress and the President have a historic opportunity to show the American people that we are not afraid to make hard choices on cutting current federal spending when a national disaster requires investment of tens, possibly hundreds, of billions of dollars.

Due to current fiscal considerations, Congress is faced with having to increase the federal deficit through debt financing in order to provide recovery assistance to the residents and businesses of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. We find this fiscal situation troublesome and urge your administration to follow the examples of previous administrations facing fiscal difficulties in time of emergencies and exercise spending restraint through offsetting, spending reductions in non-defense, non-homeland security budget items.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you during the coming months.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!

Paul Rosten

the school 1509

Long Hills

Joe Mack

Steve King

Jeff Mansding

Steve Cabot

Eric Lehmer

Patton

Wally Huger

Zell Wong
Lynn Waterhouse
Mark Z

Thomas R. P.

John Piles

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Patricia McHenry

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